

Message Text

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LIMDIS

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TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR, TU

SUBJ: DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF'S THOUGHTS ON AN
ARBITRATION PROPOSAL FOR CYPRUS

1. IN MY RECENT MEETING WITH DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF HE RECALLED THE DISCUSSION OF THE CYPRUS SITUATION WHICH TOOK PLACE IN NOVEMBER 1973 IN ROME DURING A CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY A NUMBER OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES. THIS MEETING, ATTENDED BY CLERIDES, DENKTASH, BITSIOS, AVEROFF, GEORGE BALL, CYRUS VANCE, AND OTHERS HAD PRODUCED VERY FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS OF THE CYPRUS SITUATION. IN PARTICULAR, AVEROFF BELIEVED A PROPOSAL ON INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION OF THE CYPRUS DISPUTE, WHICH HE HAD ADVANCED AT THE CONFERENCE, MERITED REEXAMINATION.

2. AVEROFF SAID THAT THE PROPOSAL CALLED FOR THE CONVENING OF AN ARBITRATION GROUP CONSISTING, ILLUSTRATIVELY, OF A SCANDINAVIAN PRIME MINISTER, THE PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD COURT AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WHO WOULD PICK UP THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AT THE POINT WHERE CLERIDES AND DENKTASH HAD ARRIVED IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS DURING RECENT YEARS. THAT POINT, WHICH SHOULD BE FAITHFULLY RECORDED IN AN AGREEMENT, WOULD BE THE POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR THE ARBITRATION GROUP. THIS ARBITRATION, HE EXPLAINED, WOULD BE BY UNANIMOUS DECISION OF THE THREE ARBITRATORS. THE TWO COMMUNITIES ON CYPRUS WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE TO AGREE

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BEFOREHAND TO ACCEPT THIS ARBITRATION. GREECE AND TURKEY

SHOULD REMAIN OUT OF THE PICTURE. TURKISH SECURITY NEEDS AND THE RIGHTS OF TURKISH CYPRIOTS, HE OPINED, COULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED BY SUCH A DISTINGUISHED GROUP.

3. AVEROFF FOUND HIS OLD PROPOSAL MORE ATTRACTIVE AS HE WENT ON TO DESCRIBE IT AND FELT THAT IT WOULD BEST BE INTRODUCED BY A NEUTRAL COUNTRY, PERHAPS SWITZERLAND OR SWEDEN. HE THOUGHT, IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY ABOUT HIS VIEWS, THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO SUGGEST IT, BUT THAT IT MIGHT BE QUITE HELPFUL FOR THE PROPOSAL TO RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

4. AVEROFF REGARDED THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AS THE KIND OF FORUM IN WHICH A PROPOSAL OF THIS KIND MIGHT BEST BE ADVANCED. AT THIS POINT, HE INFORMED ME IN CONFIDENCE THAT HE HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED A LETTER FROM A SWISS PARLIAMENTARIAN WHO FOEMERLY PRESIDED AT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND WHO WOULD BE ENTRUSTED BY THE COUNCIL WITH THE TASK OF SEEKING A FORMULA FOR SOLVING THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.
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